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Smart's widow says she fears for her safety

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Almost three months after her husband's murder, Pamela Smart is as uncertain about her future as she is about the guilt of three juveniles arrested in connection with the slaying.

The 22-year-old widow said she is concerned for her safety and sometimes thinks of relocating to another state to avoid potential conflicts with friends and family of the three suspects, whom she knew through her job as media director at School Administrative Unit 21,

located across the parking lot from where the Seabrook teens attended high school.

The teens were arrested June 11 in connection with the May 1 murder of Greg Smart, a 24-year-old insurance salesman.

Smart fears that because she knows the three youths, who are not being identified because of state law protecting the identity of juveniles, their friends and family may wrongly link her to their involvement in the murder.

But she denies any such involvement.

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Mrs. Smart says she fears for her safety

■ SMART

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"I've never been questioned or treated like I'm a suspect," said Smart. "I know these kids, but I know all kinds of kids. I work in a school district."

Smart said she worked with one of the juveniles outside of school producing a video she entered in a contest. Another teen she knew from a mandatory awareness program for freshmen. And the third teen she met a few times, but didn't know very well, she said.

"Somebody said to me the other day, we have Charles Stuart to blame for these rumors," said Smart of the recent well-known murder case in Boston. "People saw me with (one of the suspects) in Seabrook, but that's because I wasn't hiding."

"You don't want to think this can happen to a clean-cut person," she said. "Unfortunately, this is just a tragedy without an explanation."

Smart said she doesn't know if she will teach a media class next year because she is worried over how the students, and particularly, the suspects' girlfriends, will perceive her.

"All these things I decided before the arrests are totally different from where I am now," she said.

And although she isn't sure what the future will bring, she considers herself helpless in uncovering facts related to her husband's death.

But Smart said the arrests of the youths has added stress and is preventing her from dealing with her husband's death. Since the murder, she's had bad dreams and problems sleeping

for which she has sought psychiatric counseling and taken medication to help her sleep, she said.

"People have lost sight of the fact that my husband is dead," she said. "You would think that

would come with a little sympathy instead of questions."

Smart said she still can't believe the teens she gave up her time to educate would have committed such a crime. Moreover, she can't believe how they could have consoled her with a straight face after her husband was killed.

"Everyone wants me to say they were violent troublemakers," she said. "In my heart, I know that's not true."

And since she said police have not kept her abreast of progress in the investigation, she is left to make interpretations from what she saw the night she found her husband dead in their Derry home.

Smart said she sensed something wrong when she arrived home from a school board meeting the night of May 1, which approved the class she's scheduled to teach next year.

"I knew something was wrong when I saw his car and no lights in the house and there was dead silence," she said of her entrance into the house.

"My first instinct after I saw him lying there was to get out

and get help," she said. "My whole instinct was not to be by myself."

She said after she flicked on the lights, her husband was wearing his jacket and their stereo speakers and other items were stacked up next to the door. She said she didn't notice any signs of forced entry and doesn't know how the three got into the home.

She said she also didn't know her husband was killed from a single gunshot wound to the head until she heard it on the radio the day after the murder. Until then, she believed he was killed by a blunt object.

Assistant Attorney General Bill Lyons has confirmed police recovered a gun.

Following the murder, Smart moved to Hampton. The condominium she shared with her husband for almost a year has been rented by another family.

Smart said she isn't sure of her next step.

"You would think with these arrests would come answers, but it has only created more questions," she said.